

DNREC Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police Blotter: March 25-31

Reminder for the week: Safe, ethical hunting practices encouraged for Delaware turkey season opening April 13

DOVER – To achieve public compliance with laws and regulations through education and enforcement actions that help conserve Delaware's fish and wildlife resources and ensure safe boating and public safety, DNREC's Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officers between March 25-31 made 1,233 contacts with hunters, anglers, boaters, and the general public, issuing 13 citations. Officers responded to 49 complaints regarding possible violations of laws and regulations or requests to assist the public. A Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police presence continued at the C&D Canal Conservation Area and Michael N. Castle Trail.

Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police in the Community

- Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officers, along with other Division of Fish & Wildlife staff, will be attending the Ducks Unlimited Greenwing Conservation Festival on April 13 at Fish & Wildlife's Owens Station complex near Greenwood, where we will be featuring the following displays and activities: Operation Game Theft trailer, a marine patrol vessel, hunter education, live archery trailer, *Take a Kid Fishing* casting activities, annual statewide youth Sport Fishing Tournament, and waterfowl and trout stamp displays, as well as K-9 and waterfowl banding demonstrations. For more information, click [Greenwing Conservation Festival](#).
- On March 30, Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police

officers discussed the role of Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officers, answered questions regarding hunting, fishing and boating, and displayed the Operation Game Theft trailer at the annual Lurefest event at the Bowers Beach Fire Hall.

- On March 30, Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officers discussed the role of Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officers and answered hunting, fishing, and boating questions during a “Ladies Day Out” event held at Cabela’s near Newark; K-9 River was also present at the event.

Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police Actions

- On March 30, Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police officers responded to a water rescue of occupants from a capsized boat that had been rescued in the Appoquinimink River near Odessa.

Citations issued by category, with the number of charges in parentheses, included:

Fisheries Conservation: *Recreational:* Unlicensed fishing (1), no Fisherman Information Network (FIN) number (6), and possession of undersized striped bass (2).

Boating and Boating Safety: Operating a vessel with insufficient number of life jackets (1) and negligent operation of a motor vessel (1).

Other: Trespassing after hours on a state wildlife area (2)*.

**Includes citation(s) issued at the C&D Canal Conservation Area.*

DNREC’s Division of Fish & Wildlife recognizes and thanks the majority of anglers, hunters, and boaters who comply with and support Delaware’s fishing, hunting, and boating laws and

regulations. Citizens are encouraged to report fish, wildlife, and boating violations to the Delaware Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police by calling 302-739-4580 or through the DENRP Tip app on a smartphone, which can be downloaded free of charge by searching “DENRP Tip” via the Google Play Store or the iTunes App Store. Wildlife violations may also be reported anonymously to Operation Game Theft by calling 800-292-3030, going online to <http://de.gov/ogt>, or using the DENRP Tip app. Verizon customers can connect to Operation Game Theft directly by dialing #OGT.

Are you AWARE?

Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police remind the public that Delaware’s 2019 spring wild turkey hunting season begins Saturday, April 13 and runs through Saturday, May 11. With the excitement of spring turkey season, hunters are encouraged to always place safety and ethical hunting practices first and foremost.

Unlike other types of hunting, turkey hunting is an interactive sport that often involves calling to the birds and moving around in the woods to increase the opportunity of harvesting a gobbler. Hunters are reminded that it is unlawful to drive wild turkeys, to shoot a wild turkey on the roost or, for safety purposes, to wear red, white, or blue while turkey hunting.

For more information on hunting in Delaware, click on [2018-2019 Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide](#). The guide also is available in printed form at DNREC’s Dover licensing desk and from license agents throughout the state.

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<https://www.facebook.com/DEFWNRPolice/>.

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Contact: Sgt. Brooke Mitchell, 302-382-7167, or Fish &

Wildlife Natural Resources Police, 302-739-9913